Israel and China to contain terrorism, nuclear power and other areas?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: As far as India is concerned.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, the question is restricted to my visit to Israel, to which I say no. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you thinking of any cooperation with them? (*Interruptions*). We are not going for nuclear bombs. (*Interruptions*).

*228. [*The questioner (Shri Anant Ram Jaiswal) was absent. For answer*, vide *col.* 54 infra].

*229. [*The questioner (Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya) was absent. For answer*, vide *col.* 54-55 infra].

Financing of liquor/beer manufacturing units

*230. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that liquor and beer manufacturing units are not allowed to approach all-India or State Financial Institutions for financing of their projects;

(b) whether it is a fact that licences have been given to State Industrial Development Corporations for liquor and beer;

(c) whether it is also a fact that under the existing system Industrial Development Corporations are only a front to grab licences and big business houses are the maximum beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to stop Industrial Development Corporations from taking such licences of low priority items instead of taking the role of promoting industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) All India Financial Institutions do not provide financial assistance to units proposing to manufacture potable alcohol and beer based on molasses or non-molasses raw material except in the case of export-oriented units or export intensive units.

(b) From the year 1989-90 to January 31, 1992, 15 Letters of Intent (LOI) have been issued to State Industrial Development Corporations (SIDCs) for the manufacture of potable alcohol based on non-molasses raw material. During the period, only one LOI has been granted to a SIDC for manufacture of beer.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Sir, my question was about a particular liquor licences to be given to the State Industrial Development Corporations and they have started issuing licences. But as far as part (c) of the question is concerned, they have said no. I would like to know whether all the State Industrial Development Corporations are going to be given licence to produce alcohol.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Sir, such licence applications are considered on merits. If the State Industrial Development Corporations are submitting applications which conform to the parameters prescribed, we can consider.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: I would like to know, so far as the import and export policy is concerned, why all the liquor producing industries have not been permitted to produce that type of product.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Sir, liquor is not a priority item. However, if it is a 100 per cent export unit, then

certainly we will give them permit. But in other cases we would like to be restrictive. We do not want that a large number of liquor factories should come up because liquor is not a priority item.

SHRI RAJ MOHAN GANDHI: Sir, is it the Government's view that an increase in the production and consumption of liquor will take India closer to the new economic order envisioned by the Government? And if not, what are the steps the Government intends to take to divert investment into different channels?

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Sir, the Government is not for encouraging liquor consumption or production and so we are trying to restrict the issue of liquor licences.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I know from the Minister whether it is a fact that alcohol is being delicensed under the new industrial policy? If so, is it industrial alcohol that is being delicensed?

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: If somebody wants to manufacture potable alcohol he needs to take licence for it.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : माननीय सभापति महोदय, जब शराब बनेगी तो पी भी जाएगी और जब बड़े लोग पियेंगे तो छोटे लोग भी उनकी नकल करेंगे और जब उन्हें वह सस्ते दामों पर नहीं मिलेगी तो घरों में बनेगी । घरों में बनेगी तो दो-दो सौ एक साथ मरेंगे और मर भी रहे हैं । तो इस बात को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए क्या केवल सरकार रेवेन्यू के ही कारण शराब बनाना चाहती है और यदि वह इस रेवेन्यू के कारण नहीं बनाना चाहती तो शराब को बंद क्यों नहीं करना चाहिए ।

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Sir, that is a suggestion.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Sir, through you I would like to ask the Minister whether he is aware that most of the States earn a great deal of revenue from the sale of liquor. In Punjab, when the militants wanted to stop people from drinking liquor, it became a special problem for the Government and it tried to help the people who were selling liquor by giving them protection. So, in view of this there seems to be some confusion when you say that you do not want to encourage consumption of liquor. Most of the States earn large amounts of revenue and when you do not get that revenue you will be running into deficit. Isn't it then better to have a uniform policy and make sure that liquor that is produced is of the required quality so that people can drink it? It would be better if we encouraged the production of good liquor. What is wrong about it?

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Sir, as I have already said, there are divergent views on this subject. However, Government does not want to encourage the consumption of liquor. Why should we encourage drinking? But at the same time, I would like to assure the Member that the Government would take care to see that the liquor produced in the country is of the required quality.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of fraud being committed by the manufacturers of liquor? Industrial liquor contains about five per cent acetone. But with the connivance of liquor barons, acetone content is reduced to 0.5 per cent and it is mixed in the potable alcohol in view of the discrepancies in the prices of industrial alcohol and potable alcohol Has the Government taken any steps to see that discrepancy in prices does not exist?

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: If the hon. Member can write to us about any specific case of such manufacture being done, the Government will certainly take note of that and take action.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: The State of Goa is not producing alcohol. It is getting alcohol from other States. So the racket is existing in other States and not in the parent State. It is the jurisdiction of the Union Government. I feel it is the duty of the Government to enquire into this matter.

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Unless there is any allegation on or a specific complaint, how can the Government look into it? However, whatever it may be, the suggestion is taken note of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What Fernanades had said, you look into it.

श्री राम नरेश यादव : सभापति महोदय माननीय मंत्रीजी ने जो उत्तर दिया है उसमें मोलासेस और दूसरे साधनों से जो शराब बनायी जा रही है, उसके बारे में बताया है और उसको पिलाने का काम किया जा रहा है । महोदय, राष्ट्र का स्वास्थ्य बहुत जरूरी है और शराब पिलाने से जो आज स्थिति पैदा हो रही है, वह भी गंभीर बात है । तो एक तरफ तो सरकार शराब पिलाने का काम करती है और दूसरी ओर उस पर प्रतिबंध लगाने का काम भी करती है । एक तरफ तो सरकार लायसेंस देती है, दूसरी ओर नहीं पिलाने की बात भी करती है । तो मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि देश के स्वास्थ्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए शराब से जो यह क्षति और नुकसान होता है और कितने ही लोग मौत के शिकार भी होते हैं, इसे ध्यान में रखते हुए आपके सामने जो उसकी भौतिक उपलब्धि है, वह महत्वपूर्ण है या राष्ट्र का स्वास्थ्य महत्वपूर्ण है ? तो इसके महत्व को ध्यान में रखते हुए निषेध (प्रोहिबिशन) लागू करने का काम करेंगे मंत्री महोदय ?

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Sir, that is exactly what I said. The Govenment is concerned about the welfare of the people. That is why the Government will not encourage liquor. Also, we have restricted the issue of licences. There are a number of applications for licences for this potable alcohol. The Government is not issuing these licences. Also, we don't consider this as a priority sector and therefore we have instructed the banks and other instiutions not to give institutional finance to this sector. Even those who are running this, are not getting any institutioal finance or help. We have made this sure. We don't give any encouragement.

*231. [*Transferred to the 17th March, 1992*]

*223. [*The questioners (Shri H. Hanumanthappa and Shri Rajni Ranjan Sahu) were absent. For answer*, vide *col.* 55 infra].

233. [*The questioner (Shri Mentay Padmanabham) was absent. For answer* vide *col.* 55-56 infra].

Assessment of Recovery against Drug Companies

*234. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:†

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of companies against whom recovery is yet to be assessed in regard to overcharging from consumers upto 29th February, 1992;

(b) what are the products involved in each case, period upto which recovery is due and by when the process of recovery would be completed;

(c) whether Government called any details from these companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that certain companies were let off for a consideration by bureaucrats;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Satya Bahin.